

From: Justin Lower
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 4:08pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

As a long time BeOS (Be Inc. Operating System) user I cannot say how disappointed I am in what remedy's have been discussed to deal with Microsoft's monopoly. These remedies are for me, the consumer, yet I have no doubt that when all is said and done that Microsoft will still be a monopoly, that I will remain to have a very, very limited choice of operating systems to use. (I don't consider Linux, BSD, etc to be valid choices - few companies have been able to provide a easy, usable operating system that does not require a degree in Computer Science to feel one is in control.) Apple and Be Inc. are the only choices I had apart from Windows in the last 5 years or more. Now, with the BeOS 'dead', largely due to Microsoft's illegal bootloader license forcing system vendors to ignore Be Inc. or ,worse, to force a dual boot system to ignore the BeOS partition unless 'activated' (see what Hitachi had to do to ship a system with BeOS preinstalled) I have little choice but to move to the Macintosh platform.

Remedy? There are plenty of methods where Microsoft could be forced to pay for illegal activities and possibly save the BeOS platform. They could be forced (with Palm's understanding) to purchase the BeOS/BeIA source code - forced to pay community developers to remove all third party code and release it to the public as open source. I sure that other options are available - ones that might be more realistic, but the fact remains - if the settlement does not result in the renewed development of the BeOS then I will have considered it a failure.

Justin Lower
746 E 19th Ave #4
Eugene, OR 97401
(541)484-2353 <- Home #
(541) 554-7250 <- Cell #